

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

BETH CHANEY MACNEILL,

PLAINTIFF

V.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 4-14CV-242-0

NIRMAL JAYASEELAN, M.D.;
DOMINGO K. TAN, M.D.; CHAD
CARLTON, M.D.; TEXAS HEALTH
HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL
FORT WORTH; EMERGENCY
MEDICINE CONSULTANTS LTD;
BAYLOR ALL SAINTS MEDICA
CENTER AT FORT WORTH
AND EMCARE, INC.

DEFENDANTS

**RULE 12(b)(6) MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO STATE
A CLAIM UPON WHICH RELIEF CAN BE GRANTED OF DEFENDANT
OF DOMINGO K. TAN, M.D.**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

COMES NOW, DOMINGO K. TAN, M.D., one of the Defendants in the above entitled and numbered cause, (hereinafter referred to as “Tan”), and moves to dismiss the Plaintiff’s claims against him pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and would respectfully show this Honorable Court the following:

I.

BACKGROUND

In the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint, allegations are made against Tan premised on violations of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, 42 U.S.C.A. §1395dd, (see Paragraph 3.2 of Plaintiff's Amended Complaint), and on negligence (see Paragraphs 3.2, 11.0, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4) of Plaintiff's Amended Complaint for failing to perform an alleged emergent surgery and for transferring the Plaintiff when she needed such surgery. Plaintiff does not claim that Tan committed any willful, wanton or gross negligence in her Amended Complaint.

II.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant requests that the Plaintiff's claims against him be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. In support thereof, Defendant would make the arguments noted below.

III.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LABOR ACT ("EMTALA")

The Plaintiff admits in her Amended Complaint that she presented to the Baylor All Saints Medical Center Emergency Room in septic shock, and that her medical condition was emergent. (see Paragraphs 4.5, 4.7 of the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint). The Plaintiff also admits that Tan evaluated her and began to prepare her for an operative exploration by requesting a bariatric consultation from Dr. Chad Carlton, M.D., who also later evaluated the Plaintiff, but did not perform surgery. (see Paragraph 4.8 of the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint).

Plaintiff also admits that Tan provided emergency medical services to her. (see Paragraph 1.2, Plaintiff's Amended Complaint).

Tan would show that EMTALA was enacted to prevent patient dumping, and was never intended to be used as a federal malpractice statute. EMTALA imposes only a limited duty on hospitals with emergency rooms; it is not a substitute for state-law malpractice actions. By the terms of the statute, a private cause of action on behalf of the Plaintiff is not available against Tan. There are no allegations in the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint giving rise to a plausible inference that Tan was, or is, a participating hospital as required by EMTALA. For the above and foregoing reasons, Tan is entitled to a dismissal of the Plaintiff's claims against him under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).

IV.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Alternatively, the Plaintiff asserts claims of negligence against Defendant Tan. The Plaintiff has admitted that Tan was performing emergency medical care to her while her medical condition was emergent after she presented to the emergency room of the Baylor All Saints Medical Center. Section 74.153, Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, provides that a claimant claiming a health care liability claim against a physician for injuries arising out of emergency medical care must prove that the treatment or lack of treatment by the physician or healthcare provider departed from accepted standards of medical care or health care by establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the physician, with willful and wanton negligence, deviated from the degree of care and skill that is reasonably expected of an ordinary prudent physician or health care provider in the same or similar circumstances. Tan would show that there are no allegations against him of willful, wanton or gross negligence in the Plaintiff's

Amended Complaint, only ordinary negligence. Therefore, the Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted against Tan and her claims should be dismissed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).

V.

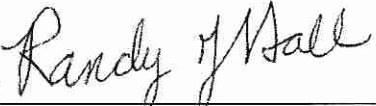
CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

For the reasons stated above, the Plaintiff's Amended Complaint fails to state a claim for which relief is available against Defendant Domingo K. Tan, M.D. on its face. Accordingly, Tan respectfully moves this Honorable Court to grant his Rule 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant Domingo K. Tan, M.D. respectfully requests that this his Rule 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss be granted, that Plaintiff's claims against him be dismissed, and that he be granted such other and further relief, both general and special, at law or in equity, to which he may show himself to be justly entitled to receive.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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